AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the first paragraph on page 1 with the following amended paragraph:

The present Application claims priority from ~~the co-pending~~ U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/317,181 filed on ~~Sep.~~September 6, 2001; the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the second paragraph on page 15 with the following amended paragraph:

The preferred embodiments thus provide a generalized tool for monitoring operation of a system. The tool may be applied to customized systems automatically without requiring any detailed knowledge of the system or of operating or failure modes. The monitoring operation is not affected by system complexity and thus avoids being too cumbersome for the more complex systems, as many bottom up solutions tend to become. The tool may be installed with little investment in terms of effort and cost since neither a detailed understanding of the system nor a lengthy training period is required. The alarm threshold is based on statistical data and thus may be adapted to the peculiarities of the particular system, controlling false alarm rates and also reducing the possibility of alarm cascades, which may occur in conventional systems when a variable hovers around a threshold value. Furthermore, because the system looks at deviant behavior rather than specific faults, and carries out consistent monitoring using statistical tools, it tends to give earlier predictions. <u>For example, the system may provide alarms for the disorder indicator that behaves in a surge function pattern.</u>